



MINUTES

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

May 19, 2020

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. John Elliott, Chair Pro Tem, District I
Mr. Paul Cain, Vice Chair, District III
Mr. Julian Davis III, Chairman, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II

Oconee County Council met at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, County Administrator Amanda F. Brock, County Attorney David Root, & Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition, it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Members of the press present: None at this meeting.

Call to Order:

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session

There will be no live general public comment period. If you have a comment you would like to submit, please contact our Clerk to Council, Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023, so that she may receive your comment and read it into the record. [No citizen contacted the Clerk to Council to provide a written comment for the Public Comment Session.]

None at this meeting.

County Council Response to Public Comment

Mr. Hart commented on The Journal, the Oconee County hospital board, Pioneer, Project Omega, and the drive-thru Easter hunt.

Mr. McCall noted he attended the meeting at the City of Walhalla and spoke about what he has donated in the past and further noted that even though he was leaving office, he would still support the Walhalla, West Union, and Mountain Rest areas and all of the fire departments.

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Moment of Silence

Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation by the County Chaplain.

Invocation by County Council Chaplain:

Mr. Root, County Council Chaplain, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to approve the May 5, 2020 Regular Minutes as presented.

Administrator's Comments

Ms. Brock updated Council regarding the following:

- Detailed Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee meeting prior to this Council meeting; reminded citizens they can view the meetings that are live streamed on YouTube on our website at www.oconeesc.com or go to www.youtube.com and search “Your Oconee”

Attorney's Comments

Mr. Root updated Council regarding the following:

- Ordinance 2020-12 will have 1st public hearing but will need a motion to delay 3rd reading
- Ordinance 2020-01 will need an amendment to Section 8 in relation to the debt service fund

Proclamation 2020-04

Proclamation 2020-04 for National Safe Boating Week

Mr. McCall read **Proclamation 2020-04** into the record.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to accept **Proclamation 2020-04** on first & final reading.

Public Hearings for the Following Ordinances

If you would like to be heard during either of the public hearings, please contact Katie Smith at ksmith@oconeesc.com or 864-718-1023 so that she may coordinate your participation by telephone.

No citizen contacted the Clerk to Council to provide a written comment for the Public Hearing Session.

Ordinance 2020-12 “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A GOVERNMENTAL REAL ESTATE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AS LESSOR AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY AS LESSEE FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, LOCATED AT 200 BOOKER DRIVE,

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WALHALLA, SOUTH CAROLINA; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Davis opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mr. Davis noted that no citizens called or sent an email to the Clerk to Council to sign up to address Council regarding **Ordinance 2020-12**.

Mr. Davis closed the Public Hearing regarding **Ordinance 2020-12**.

Third Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-12 [see caption above]

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to delay **Ordinance 2020-12** on third & final reading.

Second Reading of the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-13 “AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REAL PROPERTY REASSESSMENT IN OCONEE COUNTY BE DELAYED FOR ONE (1) YEAR, AS AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.”

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-13** on second reading.

First Reading for the Following Ordinances

Ordinance 2020-01 “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES, FOR THE TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES PROTECTION SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, FOR THE BRIDGE AND CULVERT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND, FOR THE DEBT SERVICE FUND, FOR THE VICTIM SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, FOR THE CAPITAL VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND, ALL IN OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.”

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, to approve **Ordinance 2020-01** on first reading.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliott, approved 5 – 0, to amend to restate Section 8 of the main body of Ordinance 2020-01 to revise the tax for the debt service fund to be 3 mills instead of 3.5 mills that is stated.

Mr. McCall thanked Ms. Brock and her staff and Ms. Price for the hard work they have done. He noted he has not seen a more organized effort and they have done an excellent job.

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Mr. Elliott noted there will be no additional tax burden this year for the FY2020-2021 budget. He noted he understood that businesses are trying to reopen and now is not the time to have an additional tax burden on our citizens and businesses.

Mr. Davis called for the vote of **Ordinance 2020-01** as amended. The motion passed, 5 – 0.

Ordinance 2020-02 “AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OCONEE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.”

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-02** on first reading.

Ordinance 2020-03 “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH THE BUDGET FOR THE KEOWEE FIRE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.”

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to approve **Ordinance 2020-03** on first reading.

First & Final Reading of the Following Resolutions

None at this meeting.

Discussion Regarding Action Items

2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500 Medium Duty Truck with Knapheide Utility Body / Roads & Bridges / \$66,542.00

Budget: \$161,969.42 **Project Cost:** \$66,542.00 **Balance:** \$95,427.42

This purchase is for a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500 Medium Duty, 4-wheel drive, Crew Cab Work Truck with Knapheide 9’ utility body, that will be used by the New Construction Crew to haul equipment to and from jobsite. This truck will be replacing a 2008 Ford F250 (102.22) which will be sold as surplus via public auction or GovDeals.

It is the staff’s recommendation that Council approve the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500 Medium Duty Truck with Knapheide 9’ utility body, to National Auto Fleet Group of Watsonville, CA in the amount of \$66,542.95, per Sourcewell – National Auto Fleet Group Contract Number 120716-NAF.

Mr. Hart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Silverado 4500 Medium Duty Truck with Knapheide 9’ utility body, to National Auto Fleet Group of Watsonville, CA in the amount of \$66,542.95, per Sourcewell – National Auto Fleet Group Contract Number 120716-NAF.

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To ratify and authorize the County Administrator’s (and designated staff’s) application for and receipt of CARES Act Grant No. 3-45-0016-028-2020 (the “Grant”) for the Oconee County Regional Airport

- The Grant is provided in accordance with the CARES Act to provide funding to help offset a decline in revenues arising from diminished airport operations and activities as a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.
- The maximum obligation of the United States payable under the Grant is \$69,000.
- No County or State match or contribution is required.
- Expenditures of Grant funds are limited to capital, maintenance or operating costs of the Airport.

It is staff’s recommendation that Council ratify and authorize application for and administration of the Grant.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 5 – 0, to ratify and authorize the application for and administration of the CARES Act Grant No. 3-45-0016-028-2020 (the “Grant”) for the Oconee County Regional Airport.

(1) Approve grant submission for the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2020 “Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program” (the “Grant”), seeking up to \$600,000 in Grant funding; and, (2) authorize the County Administrator and her designated staff to apply for, administer, and take all other actions necessary to execute the Grant on behalf of the County.

- Grant submission deadline is May 21, 2020.
- Grant funding will be allocated toward a collaborative effort between the Oconee County Sheriff’s Office and Oconee Addiction Recovery & Solutions (OARS) to develop a locally driven response to opioids, stimulants and other substances, including treatment and recovery services, diversion programs, and education and prevention activities.
- Funds will be used to help develop comprehensive law enforcement, community health and evidence-based programs to improve responses to at risk for overdose offenders and provide alternative-to-incarceration services to those suffering from substance abuse disorders.
- The OARS Center opened in March 2020 following a three-year collaborative effort with Oconee County and has been approved to house twenty (20) in-patient clients. The OARS Center also has a formal education lab for non-residential recovery programs.

It is staff’s recommendation that Council approve the FY 2020 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) grant application submission to develop a locally driven response to opioids, stimulants and other substances in Oconee County.

Mr. Elliott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cain, approved 5 – 0, to approve the FY 2020 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) grant application submission to develop a locally driven response to opioids, stimulants and other substances in Oconee County.

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Discuss recurring agenda item categories, specifically in relation to removal of “Unfinished Business” and “New Business.” The purpose of this discussion is to insure that proper notice of Council business is given to the public in advance of Council meetings, thereby increasing transparency and safeguarding Freedom of Information Act compliance

Mr. Davis opened up the discussion clarifying exactly what occurred with unfinished and new business. He noted he has been on Council going on four years and could not recall having anything added so in following with a lot of other counties, they have removed these items. He further noted no one on Council is keeping anyone from putting anything on the agenda. The goal was to make it easier to put items on the agenda by contacting County Administration, County Attorney, or Clerk to Council.

Lengthy discussion continued to include the following topics:

- How agendas are formatted
- State law
- Freedom of Information Act [FOIA]
- Council member comments
- Transparency
- Model Rules for Parliamentary procedures

Mr. Root noted there was an Executive Session item on the agenda that is no longer needed. This item has been removed.

Board & Commission Appointments

Building Codes Appeal Board

No questionnaires were submitted for the 1 At Large seat.

Board of Zoning Appeals

No questionnaires were submitted for the District 5 seat.

Executive Session:

[upon reconvening Council may take a Vote and/or take Action on matters brought up for discussion in Executive Session, if required]

For the following purposes, as allowed for in § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

~~*[1] Discuss contractual matter(s) related to potential property purchases for public health and safety purposes.*~~

This item was removed earlier in the meeting.

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Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council

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